

Chen

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

7 November 1973

NOTE FOR RSI

SUBJECT: NPIC-EPA Relationship--Additional Information

25X1A1. During his meeting with EPA personnel on 6 November, [] expressed his concern about their approach of using the KH materials for developing investigative leads, whereupon they expressed their willingness to go back to "an R&D mode." Using the KH imagery for R&D purposes would appear to be legal, but its use to develop investigative leads poses a policy issue which must be considered further. If it is to be used in this manner, the rationale should be clearly delimited.

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2. [] has suggested a one-load, two-purpose rationale. Because of the tremendous costs involved []

[] He suggests that action should be initiated to have the DCI, the NSC, and the President consider the adoption of this concept.

3. My own view is along the following lines. The KH imagery of U.S. areas was obtained either for testing satellite camera operations, for R&D purposes, or to meet the specific requirements of domestic government organizations that are not involved in law enforcement functions--most notably mapping. The coverage that has been acquired has been officially turned over to the USGS special []

[] which has been specifically designed to

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be available to all other government agencies. That EPA chooses to use the coverage and the facility to develop investigational leads, as they might choose to use any other source of information (for example, meteorological satellite data on the frequency of fog or haze) is strictly their responsibility. Corollaries of this view are as follows: (1) CIA should not be involved in collecting imagery to meet EPA's requirements, and (b) CIA and NPIC should not be involved in any substantive way in developing investigative leads.

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4. [] is expecting a new memorandum drafted yesterday by the EPA legal people. When he receives it, he suggested organizing a meeting with [] the Associate General Counsel, [] of the IG Staff, [] of the DDS&T, himself and myself to go over the EPA draft, the points raised in my note to you of 6 November, and any guidance you can provide. Last Thursday [] briefed [] who is to keep [] current on this matter (apparently [] was involved in the Do's and Don'ts Paper); [] was briefed on Friday, 2 November.

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